

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL OF TROOP 1 CONIMICUT

#### HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, this Sunday, February 21, 2021, marks the 100th anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 1 Conimicut, the oldest scout troop in my hometown of Warwick, Rhode Island. Over the past century, Troop 1 Conimicut has served its community, fostered lifelong friendships, and helped its members grow into confident and upstanding citizens.

On February 21, 1921, three adults and five young men founded Troop 1 Conimicut at the Woodbury Union Presbyterian Church in Warwick. The Troop quickly grew, so much so that by the 1930s, it was the second largest in the Narragansett Council. By the 1950s, Troop 1 Conimicut had more than 150 scouts, and in 1952, produced its first Eagle Scout, Mr. Robert L. Richardson, who remains the namesake of one of the Troop's most distinguished awards. By the early 1970s, the Troop reached another milestone when Mr. Alan J. Whittaker, a Troop 1 Conimicut Eagle Scout, became its first "homegrown" scoutmaster. Mr. Whittaker's passion for the Troop is evident from his continued involvement to this day.

Throughout its century of existence, Troop 1 Conimicut has engaged in many meaningful service projects. Some notable examples include collecting food for the Rhode Island Food Bank and other pantries, compiling toiletry kits for homeless veterans, and packing backpacks with supplies to distribute to foster families. Scouts have also refurbished Warwick's Sand Pond Trail, repaired the band room at Pilgrim High School, and constructed a fire pit to properly retire American flags at a local American Legion Post.

Today, Troop 1 Conimicut continues to meet weekly at the Woodbury Union Church and remains an organization committed to mentorship, service, and growth. I congratulate Troop 1 Conimicut of Warwick on its centennial and commend its positive contributions to our community.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS YODER

#### HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of the Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Thomas Yoder on his appointment to Huntingdon Borough's newlyformed human relations commission.

The goal of the commission is to ensure equal access to employment, housing, and other public services to all people, regardless

of race, sex, ethnicity, and other protected categories. Local governments have a responsibility to ensure the constitutional and legal rights of their citizens are observed, and I know that leaders like Mr. Yoder in Huntingdon take that responsibility seriously.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank Mr. Yoder for his leadership and service to Huntingdon Borough and congratulate him on being appointed to this commission.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. ANDREW "DREW" DEGRAFFENREIDT III

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Andrew DeGraffenreidt III. Andrew was the perfect embodiment of the saying: "find something you love, and you will never work a day of your life", as he continued to passionately study and practice law until the very end with the sole motivation to help others. As a devoted lawyer he tirelessly worked to assist others and his community. We have lost a great leader, a loving father, and a dear friend.

Andrew dedicated his life to mastering law and guiding young professionals in the legal community. He touched many lives during his extensive and successful legal career that spanned over 43 years until his untimely passing. Andrew was deeply committed to his community and his legal career, and like so many incredible individuals, his story had humble beginnings. Andrew's first job after graduating from the University of Miami Law School was serving as a Research Aide for General Counsel of Broward County, Florida. He then served as Deputy City Attorney for the city of Hollywood, Florida, and later became the city of Hollywood's first African American City Attorney. Additionally, during his successful career Andrew practiced private law where he led his own law firm twice. Furthermore, his extensive litigation experience in civil law set him apart from other attorneys, and his wealth of knowledge ultimately led him to serve as City Attorney of Riviera Beach, Florida, a position he valiantly held until 2019.

From 2019 to the present, Andrew spent his time handling select cases, and serving as an insightful and experienced mentor to young lawyers. He truly embodied the ethos of a "life-long learner" and continued to serve his community to the end.

To Andrew, family, faith, and love was of the utmost importance. As a member of Christ Family Worship Assembly his love for others was magnified through his commitment to God. He was most notably the devoted husband of Mary Sheely DeGraffenreidt and the proud father of seven children: Tatanisha, Reghan, Shaundelyn, Kayla, Farren, Douglas, and Andrew IV.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Andrew DeGraffenreidt III has indeed left an indelible mark on his loved ones, his community, and will be a role model for future generations to come. He will be dearly missed.

#### CELEBRATING THE ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE HALL OF FAME

#### HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the admission of the late R.R. Reynolds of Crossett and Joe Don Greenwood of Hermitage to the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame. These two Fourth District citizens are listed among those who have exemplified leadership and service to our state's agriculture industry.

As director of the Crossett Experimental Forest until 1969, the late R.R. Reynolds became one of the leading voices in modern, sustainable forest management. He maintained a commitment to proper agriculture education with membership in the Society of American Foresters, and he led the effort to create the forestry degree program at what is now University of Arkansas at Monticello.

Joe Don Greenwood, a 40-year veteran of agriculture education in Arkansas schools, led students to 41 state championships and 8 national championships in Future Farmers of America, 4-H, and Forestry. He also worked in tomato farming and served on various agricultural advisory boards, proving his commitment to agricultural excellence in all areas of life.

As an agricultural engineer and the only professional forester in Congress, I can attest to the significant investments these two men have made in Arkansas agriculture. Not only do their contributions have a positive impact upon our state's economic health, but their commitment to developing innovative agricultural practices has and will continue to have a lasting effect on our future.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM EARL STONE

#### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of William Earl Stone who passed away on February 3, 2021. Earl was a fixture in his community and will be deeply missed.

Earl was born to Lela Bell Stone on March 30, 1937. He graduated from Guntown High School in 1957 where he and Elaine Cook served as Vice President and President, respectively. He worked at Toms Drugstore,

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

where he perfected his milkshake recipe. He began his career in road construction at Boyer, Johnson and Kimes. He eventually became a partner and then sole owner of the company. He served until his death as president and board member of the Mississippi Road Builders Association.

Earl went on to marry his class president, Elaine. The two spent 59 years together and had three children. The family were members of Friendship Baptist Church where Earl served as Church Clerk, Assistant Moderator, choir member and served on many committees. He was committed to the revitalization of downtown Baldwin and was very connected to his family.

Earl Stone was an outstanding Mississippian and a man dedicated to his family and faith. He will be deeply missed.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE EMANCIPATION STATUE REMOVAL ACT

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 18, 2021*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Emancipation Statue Removal Act, the first in a series of statue and memorial removal bills I will introduce during Black History Month. The bill would remove the Emancipation Statue from Lincoln Park, a federal park in the District of Columbia, and require the Secretary of the Interior to donate the statue to a museum or a similar entity.

The Emancipation Statue was dedicated on April 14, 1876, the 11th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's assassination. Although formerly enslaved Americans paid for this statue, it was designed and sculpted without their input, and it shows. The paternalistic statue depicting a Black man on his knees in front of President Lincoln fails to recognize African Americans' agency in pressing for their own emancipation.

Understandably, recently liberated African Americans during the Reconstruction era were grateful for any recognition of their freedom in a country where they still experienced virtually total exclusion from American life. However, even at the time of its unveiling, prominent Black Americans expressed their displeasure with the statue's design, including Frederick Douglass. During his keynote address at the statue's unveiling, Frederick Douglass pointedly did not praise the statue. Rather, in a letter to the editor of the National Republican a few days after the unveiling, Douglass expressed his dismay at the statue: "The negro here, though rising, is still on his knees and nude. What I want to see before I die is a monument representing the negro, not couchant on his knees like a four-footed animal, but erect on his feet like a man."

At the end of last year, Boston removed its replica of the statue and plans to place it in a publicly accessible location where it can be better contextualized. It is time for Congress to place the original statue in a museum, too.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR.  
CHRISTINE OLDHAM

### HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 18, 2021*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Dr. Christine Oldham, Superintendent of the Ligonier Valley School District, on her retirement.

Dr. Oldham began her educational career as an elementary school teacher in 1988 in Camden, Delaware. She then served as an assistant principal at Westside Elementary School in the Greater Johnstown School District and as a principal in the Conemaugh Township School District. Before joining the Ligonier Valley School District, she served as the Superintendent of the Ferndale Area School District for five years.

At the Ligonier Valley School District, Dr. Oldham has been recognized for her leadership on key initiatives and projects. In accordance with recent educational research, she introduced a new, customized learning approach that allows students to proceed at their own pace while being supported by a teacher or learning coach. In 2008, she also oversaw the successful merger with the Laurel Valley Middle/High School.

Dr. Oldham earned a bachelor's degree from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a master's degree from Delaware State University, and a doctorate degree from Wilmington College. As she retires on June 30, 2021, Dr. Oldham will mark 13 years of service to Ligonier Valley students, teachers, staff, and families. On behalf of the 13th District of Pennsylvania, I thank Dr. Oldham for her steadfast service to our community. As Dr. Oldham embarks on the next chapter of her life, I wish her every continued happiness.

#### INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY 2021

### HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 18, 2021*

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the cultural and historical significance of International Mother Language Day. Established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1999, International Mother Language Day raises awareness of linguistic diversity and multilingualism. Every year since I have been a Member of Congress, I have introduced legislation to recognize the significance of International Mother Language Day.

International Mother Language Day is celebrated around the world on February 21st and holds special importance for the Bangladeshi American community. On February 21, 1952 Bangladeshi students died while demonstrating for recognition of Bengali as a national language of Pakistan. International Mother Language Day is an important day to commemorate those who have fought for the right for their language to be recognized.

Madam Speaker, the United States has a diverse and rich linguistic and cultural heritage. The Census Bureau reports there are

over 300 spoken languages in the United States, 169 of these are native languages. According to UNESCO, 145 languages in the United States are classified as "endangered."

Preserving existing languages is an essential component of preserving our rich and diverse heritage.

Madam Speaker, I believe we must continue to promote linguistic diversity and linguistic education in our country. We cannot allow the 145 endangered languages in our nation to become extinct. I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

#### CONGRATULATING HERMAN AND BOBBIE GOLDBERGER FOR THEIR STEWARDSHIP OF THE HEBREW WATCHMAN

### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 18, 2021*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Herman and Bobbie Goldberger on their retirement. Their family-owned labor of love, The Hebrew Watchman, has been a cornerstone of the Jewish community in Memphis for 95 years. Founded in 1925 as The Memphis Watchman by Leo I. Goldberger, Herman's father, it has chronicled Memphis Jewish life with grace and devotion for generations. I am very pleased to see that Jewish Living of the South Inc., and Jewish Scene Magazine editor and publisher Susan C. Nieman, have acquired this important and beloved cultural institution and have pledged to keep it going for another 95 years. I want to thank Herman and Bobbie Goldberger for their stewardship of The Hebrew Watchman and wish them well in retirement.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE JAMES KERSTEN'S YEARS OF SERVICE TO 33RD DISTRICT COURT

### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 18, 2021*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge James Kersten on the occasion of his retirement after serving nearly 25 years as the 33rd District Judge in Woodhaven, Michigan. His contributions to the community are worthy of commendation.

Judge Kersten grew up in Trenton, graduating from Trenton High School. In 1977, Judge Kersten graduated from Michigan State University and in 1980 he earned his law degree from the Detroit College of Law. Judge Kersten started his career as an attorney in Flat Rock where he represented local families and businesses. Later, he served as a Wayne County mediator and arbitrator for 10 years and eventually, Judge Kersten was elected to serve as the 33rd District judge following in the footsteps of his father, Judge Kurt Kersten.

During his time as a Judge, he encouraged people in trouble to use that experience and make a positive change in their lives and was known for his skillful mediation of long standing civil disputes.

Beyond his work in the judiciary, he is an active member of St. Paul Lutheran Church,